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(54) PRODUCTION OF L-ALPHA-AMINO ACID

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To directly obtain the above compound useful as a raw material for foods, etc., from an α -(N-alkylidenamino)nitrile compound of racemic modification and to reduce production cost thereof by using a specific bacterium having nitrile hydrolyzing ability.

CONSTITUTION: A nitrile compound (e.g., 2-aminopropanenitrile) shown by formula I or II (R_1 and R_2 are alkyl or phenyl) is treated with a bacterium [e.g., Nocardia sp. PC-29 (FERM-BP 1561)] belonging to the genus Nocardia, Mycobacterium or Corynebacterium, having hydrolyzing activity to give the aimed

compound. The reaction is preferably carried out at 20-70°C at pH8-12 for q-6 days.

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